

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee

I urgently ask the Committee to oppose SB244 and support HB 5293, with an amendment.

SB 244 as written will promote a dangerous expansion to killing wildlife under the guise of protecting crops. The bill opens the door to killing any species 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Extraordinary! It would create a major public safety hazard and turn CT into a wildlife shooting range. Where did it come from??!! Instead: A comprehensive and consistent public education program that teaches how to effectively protect agricultural crops, livestock and personal property. ***The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection already has the authority to remove and kill wildlife that damages property.***

Thank you for raising HB 5293, Prohibiting the Use of Wild and Exotic Animals in Traveling Animal Acts. This bill provides needed protection for certain animals such as camels, elephants and tigers, by removing them from traveling entertainment shows such as circuseinhums. It has been well documented, partly by a Connecticut resident, that the animals are trained using inhumane practices. They are forced to perform tricks and acts not physically natural to them. They have scant, if any, protection in existing laws. Also, please support an amendment on line 33 to remove "includes any animal that is not domesticated." Some will use that language as a loophole to exclude from the bill's scope wild animals bred, born or raised in captivity.

I urge the Committee to please oppose SB 244 and support HB 5293 with an amendment.

Gratefully,

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